

LETTERS FROM READERS

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Body

Bad pick for World Bank

Paul Wolfowitz is, no doubt, a highly intelligent and experienced man, perhaps even the compassionate one President Bush describes ("Bush to nominate Wolfowitz to head the World Bank," March 17).

But it takes more than being smart and a good person to truly earn a position of great power and responsibility. It takes a successful track record.

With loud certainty, Wolfowitz was wrong about Iraq's weapons, wrong about the financial costs of the Iraq war, wrong about the human costs - grotesquely wrong, by miles, by orders of magnitude. Much of our current budget deficit, and many thousands of deaths, are the direct results of his incompetent management.

A strong leader would hold Wolfowitz accountable for his mistakes. Only President Bush would so blithely reward such incompetence.

Paul Cantrell, Minneapolis.

One has to admire the employment practices of the Bush administration. Create failed foreign policies and get a promotion.

First Condoleezza Rice is named secretary of state, and now Paul Wolfowitz is nominated to head the World Bank.

I only wish it worked that way in the real world.

Newton Smith, Minneapolis.

The right to kill

I keep reading stories in the media about the Terri Schiavo case - that it is a complex set of issues related to a person's "right to die."

Seems to me that, without a clear understanding of Terri's wishes, this is much more a case about the "right to kill."

Jeff Verdoorn, Eden Prairie.

Everything's fair game

Opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling is more about precedent than petroleum (Star Tribune, March 17).

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A wilderness designation is being overturned, setting a precedent that could make it easier to overturn other wilderness areas and wildlife refuge designations and open them up to extractive industries.

Mathew Swora, Shoreview.

Business as usual

Now that the Senate has voted to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration, I have come to the conclusion that our government is morally bankrupt. Cashing in our national treasures for an oil fix is nothing more than stealing from our children to pay off our own debts oh, that's right, they've been doing that for years.

Pete Passolt, Minneapolis.

Hats off to Coleman

I'd like to thank Sen. Norm Coleman for making the right choice and voting against drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Jonathan Benz, Eden Prairie.

What is news?

In the March 13 Star Tribune, Kate Parry reported, "The ideal Star Tribune front page includes two strong news stories - preferably one local and one national."

So that's why the groundbreaking news about Hamas' participation in the Palestinian government was buried inside, in favor of enormous front-page pictures of students scratching and holding their heads.

That must be why the Star Tribune ignored the release from jail of Egyptian opposition leader Ayman Nour. Or that we didn't read about the ominous decision by China to limit the terms of Hong Kong's leaders.

But at least the front page informed us that the 2006 Lexus RX Luxury Hybrid won't be available until next month.

Caveat lector - let the reader beware.

Lawrence Rudnick, Minneapolis.

South Dakota East

The proposal to put slots in taverns will only hasten what is already past the check-swing point, and that is the South Dakota-ization of Minnesota.

Before the next pitch, we would all be well-served by a little research: Just where do South Dakota and Minnesota rank on the various lists of what's good and what's bad among the 50 states?

It's always good to see where you're going.

Matt Mauch, Minneapolis.

Always a bridesmaid

The March 14 editorial in favor of rejecting a gay marriage amendment to the state Constitution contained the usual arguments expected from the Star Tribune. Whenever an issue comes up that includes participation by the electorate, this paper is against it. Why? Because in most, if not every case, including this one, if put to a vote, this paper's position would come in second.

Mike Touhey, Le Sueur, Minn.

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A sad sign of the times

It is a sad day that marks the arrival of extensive security measures at the Hennepin County Government Center (Star Tribune, March 15).

One of the truly great things about practicing law in Hennepin County, arguably the busiest county court in the nation, was the open door policy: Just about anyone, laymen and lawyers alike, have had unfettered access to our judges. Easy as walking right into chambers, without being frisked.

Recent courthouse events nationally have caused us to revisit the way we are.

This openness, this lucid accountability, is what initially attracted me to practice law in Minneapolis. I truly hope that our city's positive spirit will transcend the intrusive trappings of a more sinister era.

Frederic Bruno, Minneapolis.

Science is evolving

In regard to the March 13 Op Ex article "'Intelligent design' simply short on evidence": Scientists once claimed that the Earth was flat, the sun rotated around the Earth, bloodletting was an acceptable medical procedure and breast milk was unhealthy for babies.

History shows us that scientists can be wrong. You would think that after 150 years and thousands of scientists experimenting, someone would have discovered and replicated the process to produce the first life.

Molecular biology reveals that life is incredibly and irreducibly complex, strong evidence against macroevolution. Children ought not to be misled about what is good science and what is not.

Roger Martin, Eden Prairie.

Leave it alone - it works

Just because Cheri Pierson Yecke now works for a right-wing think tank doesn't make her ideas any more palatable to Minnesotans ("Voluntary personal accounts were proposed long ago," March 13).

Regardless of the semantics, the trust fund we call Social Security has functioned exactly as planned, and will continue to do so if it can be protected from the likes of her.

Cathy Murphy, St. Louis Park.

Correction

A March 6 letter incorrectly stated that two U.S. curling teams won world championships in Madison, Wis., last month. Two teams of Minnesotans won the U.S. Olympic curling trials.

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